

Appl. No : 09/692,655
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims as listed below will replace all prior listings and presentations of claims in the above-identified application.

Please amend Claims 8, 10-12, 14, 15, 20, 22, 38-40 and 43-45; please cancel claims 1-7 and 32-34 without prejudice and please add new Claims 49-59 as indicated below:

1. - 7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A roof tile support system, comprising:

a roofing surface;

a plurality of roof tiles, each having an undersurface, said undersurface having a front end portion, a middle portion and a back end portion; and

a plurality of independent, generally wedge-shaped support elements constructed from a compressible material, the support elements being sized and adapted to contact at least the middle portion of the undersurface of the roof tiles, but not the entire undersurface of the roof tiles, such that at least either the front end portion or the back end portion of the undersurface of the roof tiles overhangs the support element, the support elements being positioned between and in contact with both of said roofing surface and said roof tiles,

wherein said support elements are arranged on the roof surface in at least a lower row and an upper row, and with the support elements in each row are located on the roofing surface with having a space between adjacent support elements; wherein said support elements support said roof tiles so as to increase the load capacities of said roof tiles, and wherein each support element is configured to support more than one roof tile of any shape in a single course; and

wherein the support elements are not specially adapted or shaped with respect to the roof tiles, such that the roof tiles are independently installable on the support elements so that their position thereon is adjustable during installation.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein the plurality of roof tiles float on the plurality of support elements, whereby each individual roof tile is supported against breakage by at least one support element.

Appl. No : 09/692,655
Filed : October 19, 2000

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein ~~said space is between adjacent support elements in a single course~~ said roof tiles are arranged in courses and an upper course is supported by said support elements such that front portions of the roof tiles of the upper course contact back end portions of tiles in an adjacent lower course of roof tiles.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein ~~said space is between a support element in a first course and a support element in a next higher course at least one roof tile comprises a back end portion which overlaps a rear end of the support element on which it is supported.~~

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein ~~said support elements are separate pieces from said roof tiles and said roofing surface the rear portion of the tile is in contact with the roof surface.~~

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein each of said support elements supports four or more roof tiles in a single course.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein ~~said support elements have a large surface area for contacting a substantial portion of the area under said roof tiles~~ said roof tiles are arranged in courses and a first course is supported by said support elements such that front end portions of the roof tiles of the upper course overlap back end portions of tiles in an adjacent lower course of roof tiles.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein ~~said support elements are wedge-shaped an amount by which the roof tiles in the upper course overlap the tiles in the adjacent lower course is configured to be adjustable during installation.~~

16. (WITHDRAWN) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have arch sections, and said roof tiles are barrel roof tiles.

17. (WITHDRAWN) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a triangular cross-section.

18. (ORIGINAL) The roof tile support system of Claim 15, wherein said support elements have a quadrilateral cross-section.

Appl. No : 09/692,655
Filed : October 19, 2000

19. (ORIGINAL) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said support elements are made of expanded polystyrene.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in rows-courses and an upper course ~~first row~~ is supported by said support elements such that front end portions of the roof tiles of the first row ~~upper course~~ are elevated some distance above rear end portions of tiles in an second ~~adjacent lower row~~ course of said roof tiles.

21. (ORIGINAL) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are supported by said support elements such that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements and said roofing surface.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The roof tile support system of Claim 8, wherein said roof tiles are arranged in rows-courses and a first row-course is supported by said support elements such that the weight of said tiles, or a concentrated load on said tiles, will be distributed over said support elements, said roofing surface and a second lower course row of roof tiles.

23. - 25. (CANCELLED)

26. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of installing roof tile supports, comprising:

first, placing a support element on a roofing surface;

then, placing a first roof tile on said support element such that at least a central portion of an underside of said roof tile is substantially supported by the support element, and such that said first roof tile does not contact a roof tile in an adjacent lower course; and

finally, securing said roof tile to said roofing surface.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 26, wherein said first roof tile is placed in contact with both said roofing surface and said support element.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 27, further including a second roof tile adjacent and in the same course with said first

Appl. No : 09/692,655
Filed : October 19, 2000

roof tile, wherein said second roof tile is placed in contact with said roofing surface, said support element, and said first roof tile.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 26, wherein securing said first roof tile to said roofing surface comprises driving a nail through said first roof tile into said roofing surface.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 29, wherein said nail also passes through a portion of said support element.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of installing roof tile supports of Claim 26, further including a second support element, wherein said second support element is positioned to the side of said first support element so as to leave a gap between the two elements.

32. - 36. (CANCELLED)

37. (WITHDRAWN) A method of making a roof tile support comprising:

providing a block of expanded polystyrene having dimensions larger than a support to be produced;

cutting said block of expanded polystyrene with a hot wire; and

orienting said wire relative to said block to cut the block into a wedge shape.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of installing roof tiles and roof tile supports on a roofing surface, the roof tile and roof tile supports having corresponding front edges and back edges, the method comprising, in no particular order:

placing ~~a first~~ a lower generally wedge-shaped roof tile support on the roofing surface;

placing ~~a second~~ an upper generally wedge-shaped roof tile support on the roofing surface such that the back edge of the ~~first-lower~~ roof tile support is generally aligned with the front edge of the ~~second-upper~~ roof tile support but spaced apart therefrom;

placing a first tile on the ~~first-lower~~ roof tile support such that a central portion of an underside of the first roof tile is in contact with and is supported by an upper surface of the lower roof tile support;

Appl. No : 09/692,655
Filed : October 19, 2000

placing a second roof tile on the ~~second-upper~~ roof tile support such that ~~the-a~~ front edge-end of the second roof tile overlaps ~~the-a~~ back edge-end of the first roof tile.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 38, wherein the front edge end of the second roof tile does not contact the back edge-end of the first roof tile.

40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 38, wherein the front edge end of the second roof tile touches the back edge-end of the first roof tile.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 38, wherein the back end of the first roof tile does not touch the roofing surface or the second roof tile or the second roof tile support.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 38, wherein the back end of the first roof tile touches the roofing surface.

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 38, wherein the back end of the first roof tile touches the ~~second-upper~~ roof tile support.

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 38, further comprising adjusting the second roof tile on the ~~second-upper~~ roof tile support to increase or decrease an amount by which the front edge-end of the second roof tile overlaps the back edge-end of the first roof tile.

45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A roofing system comprising:
a roofing surface over which a new roof is to be constructed;
a plurality of roofing tiles;
a plurality of roof tile supports configured to provide structural support to a central portion of the roofing tiles, wherein each of said supports is generally in the shape of a wedge and is sized to support a plurality of roofing tiles in a single course;
wherein at least two adjacent roofing tiles are supported on a single support;
and

wherein the at least two roofing tiles are ~~placed-positioned~~ on the support[[s]] so as to allow a distance by which an upper course of tiles overlaps a lower course of tiles to be adjusted.

Appl. No : 09/692,655
Filed : October 19, 2000

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of Claim 45, wherein the upper course of tiles contacts the lower course of tiles.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of Claim 45, wherein the upper course of tiles is supported above and not in contact with the lower course of tiles.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of Claim 45, wherein adjacent supports are separated from one another by a gap.

49. (NEW) A combination of a roof tile support and a plurality of roof tiles thereon, the combination comprising:

a roof surface having an upward slope;

a first support element having a shape of a wedge with a tall edge and a short edge, the first support element being positioned on the roof surface with the short edge oriented uphill from the tall edge;

first and second roof tiles positioned adjacent one another in a single course and each having a bottom surface in contact with an upper surface of the first support element, wherein each of said roof tiles comprises a front edge that extends beyond the tall edge of the front support element; and

a second support element having a wedge shape with a tall edge and a short edge, the second support element being positioned on the roof surface with the short edge positioned downhill from and parallel to the tall edge of the first support element.

50. (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the support elements are oriented such that their tall edges are perpendicular to a gradient line of the slope.

51. (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the tall edges of the support elements have a height that is substantially equal to a height of a back end of the roof tiles.

52. (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the tall edges of the support elements have a height that is greater than a height of a back end of the roof tiles.

53. (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the tall edges of the support elements have a height that is less than a height of a back end of the roof tiles.

54. (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the first and second roof tiles have a back end that extends beyond the short edge of the first support element.

Appl. No : 09/692,655
Filed : October 19, 2000

55 (NEW) The combination of Claim 54, wherein the back end of the roof tiles contacts the roof surface.

56 (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, further comprising a third roof tile positioned adjacent the first or second roof tile, and also having a bottom surface in contact with the first support element.

57 (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the support elements are made of expanded polystyrene.

58 (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the roofing surface further comprises at least one batten mounted to the roofing surface and extending perpendicular to a gradient of the slope, wherein the tall edge of the second support element abuts the batten and is at least as tall as a height of the batten.

59. (NEW) The combination of Claim 49, wherein the upper surface of the support elements is a continuous planar surface extending between the tall edge and the short edge.